

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, GW, YO

SUBJECT: INTERFERENCE WITH RADIO SARAJEVO

REF: BELGRADE 5196 AND PREVIOUS

1. WHEN AFN STATIONS' FREQUENCY (611 KHZ) WAS REGISTERED WITH INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION (ITU) IN 1963, RADIO SARAJEVO'S POWER WAS 60 KW. BOTH STATIONS EXISTED COMPATIBLY FOR 20 YEARS (AFN HAS BEEN ON 611 KHZ SINCE 1953) UNTIL SARAJEVO'S RECENT INCREASE TO 600 KW. THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS BEEN NO RPT NO CHANGE IN AFN POWER OR TECHNICAL

CHARACTERISTICS DURING THIS PERIOD. SINCE THIS COMPATIBLE RELATIONSHIP WAS UPSET BY RECENT SARAJEVO INCREASE IN POWER, YUGOSLAVS HAVE NO RPT NO LEGAL BASIS FOR COMPLAINT AGAINST AFN USE OF 611 IN FRG. NEVERTHELESS, WE RECOGNIZE OBLIGATION TO ELIMINATE AFN INTERFERENCE WITH SARAJEVO SIGNAL ON 611 KHZ WITHIN TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF YUGOSLAVIA. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL WE ARE PREPARED TO CONDUCT POWER REDUCTION TESTS IN COOPERATION WITH YUGOSLAV COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITIES DESIGNED TO DETERMINE DEGREE OF REDUCTION NECESSARY. ONCE THIS DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE, AFN STATIONS WILL PROCEED TO REDUCE SIGNAL STRENGTH ACCORDINGLY.

2. WE BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO CONDUCT POWER REDUCTIONS TESTS BY CONTACTING DULOVIC, DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION FOR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, (BELGRADE 5055) WHEN HE RETURNS FROM GENEVA. SUCH TESTS WOULD BE IN GOY INTEREST BECAUSE THEY WOULD LEAD TO ELIMINATION OF INTERFERENCE IN YUGOSLAVIA AND CREATE A COINCIDENTAL OPPORTUNITY OF POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF INTERFERENCE TO SARAJEVO SIGNAL WITHIN SOUTHERN AREAS OF FRG. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS THAT WHILE AFN POWER REDUCTIONS ARE POSSIBLE, WE HAVE NO RPT NO INTENTION OF TAKING UNILATERAL DECISION TO VACATE 611 KHZ. IF COMPETENT YUGOSLAV COMMUNICATIONS EXPERTS ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL AND REGULATORY ASPECTS OF ISSUE WITH U.S. COUNTERPARTS, U.S. EXPERT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO VISIT BELGRADE.

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3. BEGIN FYI -- IF YUGOSLAVS DECLINE TO CONDUCT TESTS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONDUCT UNILATERAL TESTS TO BE MONITORED BY U.S. PERSONNEL. POWER OF THREE AFN STATIONS HAS ALREADY BEEN REDUCED UNILATERALLY BY 50 AS GOODWILL GESTURE AND FIRST STEP IN ELIMINATING INTERFERENCE WITHIN YUGOSLAVIA.

4. RADIO SARAJEVO DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE SOLE BROADCASTING RIGHTS TO 611 KHZ. AFN USE OF 611 WAS PROPERLY REGISTERED IN INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY LIST OF ITU IN 1963, AND YUGOSLAVS DID NOT RPT NOT OBJECT TO REGISTRATION. UNDER ESTABLISHED ITU PROCEDURE, YUGOSLAVS COULD HAVE BLOCKED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGISTRATION ON BASIS OF POTENTIAL INTERFERENCE.

5. SIGNAL RADIUSES ARE ASSIGNED AND CONTROLLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITU RADIO REGULATIONS WHICH INCLUDE: (A) STUDY BY THE ITU OF POTENTIAL INTERFERENCE AND (B) THE RIGHT FOR PRIOR USERS OF FREQUENCY TO COMMENT BEFORE FREQUENCY IS REGISTERED.

6. WE ARE NOT RPT NOT PREPARED TO LEAVE 611 KHZ IN FRG
UNLESS GERMAN AUTHORITIES ASSIGN AFN ANOTHER FREQUENCY
SUITABLE TO AFN'S TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS. MOREOVER, WE DO
NOT RPT NOT THINK IT ADVISABLE FOR U.S. TO RAISE WITH
FRG ISSUE OF CHANGE IN FREQUENCY FOR AFN STATIONS. ANY
SUCH INITIATIVE SHOULD COME FROM YUGOSLAVS.

7. YUGOSLAVS HAVE OPTIONS TO RE-REGISTER SARAJEVO WITH
ITU WITH HIGHER TRANSMITTER POWER OR RAISE ISSUE WITH FRG.
POSSIBLE REASON WHY YUGOSLAVS HAVE NOT APPROACHED ITU IS
THAT REGISTRATION OF SARAJEVO WITH HIGHER POWER MIGHT BE
DENIED ON BASIS OF ADDITIONAL INTERFERENCE IT WOULD CAUSE

OTHER STATIONS ALSO REGISTERED FOR USE OF 611 KHZ INCLUD-
ING AFN STATIONS. END FYI.
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